



s 9(2)(a) OIA

Dear s 9(2)(a) OIA

Thank you for your email of 26 March 2019 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

- 1: The proposal and recommendations from the combined board of trustees of van Asch Deaf Education Centre and Kelston Deaf Education centre to merge into one organisation.*
- 2: All other documents related to this merger and the proposal (emails, letters and other forms) including communications with stakeholders, the community and members of the board, as well as ministry of education regarding merging the two schools into one organisation.*
- 3. The recommendations of the proposal as determined by the Limited Statutory Managers of the two schools (van Asch and Kelston Deaf Education Centres)*
- 4: The decision by Minister Hipkins for this Proposal, and the justification for that decision.*

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). I apologise for the time it has taken to respond to your request.

I am advised Hon Chris Hipkins' office has provided you with a response to questions 1, 3 and 4 of your request.

2: All other documents related to this merger and the proposal (emails, letters and other forms) including communications with stakeholders, the community and members of the board, as well as ministry of education regarding merging the two schools into one organisation.

I am releasing to you a range of material, attached as **Appendix A**, which contains correspondence between the Ministry of Education and deaf-community organisations generated during the consultation process on the merger.

Please note I did not include administrative correspondence between the Board and the Ministry, such as arranging meeting dates or translation of material into or from New Zealand Sign Language.

I have withheld some parts of the documents that are being released under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons and the free and frank sharing of opinions between Ministry officials.

I have attached as **Appendix B** a document table to help you navigate the documents.

Thank you again for your email. You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely



Susan Howan
Acting Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support

cc: Isabel Evans, Auckland Director of Education